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**Public Hearing Testimony of  
Danté Bartolomeo  
Commissioner  
Department of Labor  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
February 7, 2023**

Good Morning Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, Senator Sampson, Representative Ackert and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this written testimony regarding **SB 938: AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR STRIKING WORKERS**. My name is Danté Bartolomeo and I am the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Labor.

Under the current law, CGS § 31-236(a)(3), individuals who are found to be on strike under the Unemployment Compensation Act would be ineligible for benefits for as long as the strike is in place, unless the Administrator determines the existence of a lockout or the workers are permanently replaced by the employer. SB 938 would permit those same striking employees, if otherwise eligible, to receive unemployment benefits while on strike, after a two-week delay.

SB 938 results in a potential cost and potential revenue gain to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. According to the Office of Fiscal Analysis' fiscal impact of SB 317 (File 249): AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT FOR STRIKING EMPLOYEES legislative proposal during the 2022 Legislative Session, *to the extent any striking workers become eligible for unemployment benefits as a result of the bill, this would result in a cost to the UI Trust Fund. Subsequent increases in experience ratings by employers would result in increased tax revenue to the UI Trust Fund on a lagged basis. The amounts are dependent on striking workers' benefits and affected employers' experience ratings.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Committee with this written testimony. I and my staff are available to answer any questions that you may have regarding SB 938 and looks forward to joining any future discussions if this proposal moves forward.